NATIONAL GALLERY, IRELAND.

REPORT

OF

THE DIRECTOR

TO THE

BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND GUARDIANS

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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NATIONAL GALLERY, IRELAND

DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1914.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND,
3rd February, 1915.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1914.

Sir Walter Armstrong having, on the 3rd December, 1913, intimated his intention of retiring from the Directorship of the Gallery at the end of March, you did me the honour of appointing me at a meeting of the Board, held on 25th February, as his successor, and I took up my duties as Director of the Gallery on the 1st April.

During the year the following works were added to the collection :—

(*a*) For the general collection :—

The Musicians, oil picture, by J. B. Martinez del Mazo, purchased for £10 10*s*. 0*d*.
Pharaoh and his Hosts in the Red Sea, by Lodovico Mazzolini, £36 15*s*. 0*d*.
Jael and Sisera, by J. G. de Espinosa, £40 0*s*. 0*d*.
Old Westminster Bridge, by Samuel Scott, £504 0*s*. 0*d*.
Portrait of a Lady, by Gilbert Stuart, £315 0*s*. 0*d*.
Donnybrook Fair, water colour, by Francis Wheatley, R. A., £8 8*s*. 0*d*.
Waterfall on the Liffey, water colour, by Francis Wheatley, R.A., £5 15*s*. 6*d*.
The Oyster Woman, by Francis Wheatley, R.A., £3 3*s*. 0*d*.
Two Water Colour Drawings by George Grattan, £15 15*s*. 0*d*.
Autograph Letter of Sir Thomas Lawrence, £2 2*s*. 0*d*.

The following eleven pictures were presented by Sir Hugh Lane :—

A Decorative Group, by J. B. Piazzetta.
The Vision of St. Francis, by Il Greco.
Portrait of a Lady, by Paul Veronese.
Portrait of a Man, by Jacopo da Ponte, Il Bassano.
Landscape with figures, by Alessandro Magnasco.
The Game Keeper, by Thomas Gainsborough.
A Pair of Pictures of Still Life, by A. F. Desportes.
Portrait of Letitia Bonaparte, by Nanine Vallain.
Portrait of John Gainsborough, by Thomas Gainsborough.
Portrait of the Artist's wife, by George Romney.
A Winter Scene, by J. A. Beerstraten.
Portrait of the Artist's Mother, by W. H. Hunt.
Portrait Group of Lady Congreve and children, by Phillip Reinagle, R.A. Presented by E. R. Turton, Esq.
View of a Dutch Town, by J. H. Prins. Presented by Miss Sarah Purser.
A Winter Scene, by Klaes Molenaer. Bequeathed by Mrs. Nugent, of Castleconnell.
Catalogue of Greek Bronzes in the collection of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, in continuation of the two volumes previously presented by Mr. Morgan.

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(*b*) For the National Historical and Portrait Gallery:—

View of the Marine School, Dublin, water colour drawing, by James Malton, £42 0*s.* 0*d.*

The Custom House, Dublin, water colour drawing, by James Malton, £50 8*s.* 0*d.*

The Blue-coat School, Dublin, water colour drawing, by James Malton, £44 2*s.* 0*d.*

Views of Dublin Castle and the Barracks, two etchings after J. Tudor. £3 0*s.* 0*d.*

Portrait of Rev. Cornelius Nary, mezzotint, by John Brooks
Portrait of Rev. Cornelius Nary, mezzotint, by Andrew Miller
Rev. T. Williams, mezzotint, by A. Miller
Lady Helena Rawdon, mezzotint, by J. Brooks
Mrs. Ponsonby, mezzotint, by J. Brooks
} £5 8*s.* 0*d.*

General Gervan Parker, mezzotint, by A. Miller, £1 10*s.* 0*d.*

Portrait of Thomas Bridgford, R.H.A., lithograph.
Presented by H. C. W. Tisdall, Esq., R.H.A.

Cast from death-mask of Joseph Sheridan LeFanu
Presented by Brinsley T. LeFanu, Esq.

Three old Maps of Dublin.
Presented by J. F. Fuller, Esq.

The following Pictures have been lent to the Gallery:—

Juno confiding Io to the care of Argus, by Claude Lorrain.
Pluto and Proserpine, by Nicholas Poussin.
The Marriage of Thetis and Peleus, by Nicholas Poussin.
Bacchante and Satyr, by Nicholas Poussin.
The Young Governess, by J. B. S. Chardin.
Venus and Adonis, by Tintoretto.
The Sportsmen's Rest, by G. Stubbs.
All lent by Sir Hugh Lane.

Portrait of the late Dr. Traill, Provost of Trinity College, by H. Harris Brown. Lent by Major Traill.

Portrait of Dr. Salmon, Provost of Trinity College, by Benjamin Constant. Lent by Dr. Mahaffy.

Portrait of W. S. Mossop, Medallist. Lent by Miss Mossop.

The Holy Family, by Savoldo. Lent by H. Warren, Esq.

The number of pictures acquired for the Gallery necessitated some re-arrangement of the collection, especially as regards the French and Spanish works, the addition to which made it desirable to devote separate rooms to them. The later works of the Italian School were removed from the large Italian Gallery and arranged in Room XXI. in the new wing. The adjoining Room XX. was devoted to the pictures of the French School, and No. XIX. to the Spanish School. The next two rooms, Nos. XVII. and XVIII., were assigned to the English pictures formerly hung in the three rooms, Nos. X., XI., XII., and were replaced by the pictures of the Dutch School. The works by Irish Artists, with a few of the more modern English pictures, were hung in Room XIII. This latter will eventually be used to give further room for the Dutch collection when space can be found for the Irish pictures. The result of these re-arrangements has been the more effective display of the collection, especially the English pictures.

During the year the following pictures were cleaned or restored:—

No. 507.—The Halt, by Solomon Ruysdael; relined and repaired.
,, 281.—Portrait of Sir Walter Raleigh; transferred from panel to canvas.
,, 79.—Portrait of Mrs. Norton, by G. F. Watts; cleaned and restored.
,, 172.—Portrait by Sir A. Van Dyck; cleaned and varnished.
,, 69.—The Holy Family, by Jacob Jordaens; cleaned and varnished.
,, 456 and 457.—St. Margaret and St. Dorothea, by the Master of Liesborn; cleaned and varnished.
,, 412.—St. Mark and St. Augustine, by Giusto d'Andrea; repaired and cleaned.

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No. 14.—Portrait of Infanta Maria Teresa, after Velazquez; cleaned and varnished.
" 360.—The Miracles of St. Nicholas by Dirck Bouts; cleaned and restored.
" 682.—A Winter Scene, by Klaes Molenaer; cleaned and varnished.

In addition to this a beginning has been made in the repair and cleaning of the frames throughout the Gallery, which will be continued during the present year, and will also involve the substitution of new frames for many of the inferior frames unsuitable for their pictures.

A new edition of the Gallery Catalogue, revised and brought up to date, was completed and issued to the public at the end of the year. Portion of the issue is illustrated with reproductions of a number of the more important pictures.

The By-Laws of the Gallery, which were drawn up in 1864, having, owing to the changed conditions which had gradually arisen during the fifty years since their enactment, became inappropriate to the present conditions, a committee of the Governors was appointed to examine them and to suggest modifications. As a result a new and revised set of By-Laws was approved by the Board and ordered to be adopted.

At a meeting of the Board held on the 3rd June it was unanimously agreed to ask the Treasury for an increased grant for the purchase of pictures and also an increase in the salaries of the Director and the Registrar, and a letter setting forth the urgent grounds for this request was addressed to the Treasury. After some correspondence the Treasury declined to make any addition to the present grant of £1,000 for the purchase of pictures or to sanction any increase in the salaries of the Director or Registrar. The Governors, however, made a further appeal to the Treasury on the subject; but the Treasury adhered to their decision, and the outbreak of the War prevented any further action by the Governors being taken.

During the year the following changes in the constitution of the Board occurred. By the death of Lt.-Colonel Hopton Scott the Board lost one of its oldest and most valued members, who during his long connection with the Gallery had always evinced a strong interest in its welfare. Dr. Mahaffy, on his appointment as President of the Royal Irish Academy, became an *ex-officio* member of the Board, thus leaving a vacancy among the members, and another vacancy was caused by the resignation of Sir Hugh Lane previous to his appointment as Director. To fill these vacancies His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant appointed the following:—Miss Purser, the Right Hon. W. F. Bailey, C.B., and Mr. Richard Caulfield Orpen, R.H.A.

Tickets of admission to copy in the Gallery were issued to 11 persons—5 gentlemen and 6 ladies. The number of attendances of artists and students was 356.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HUGH LANE,

Director.

The Governors and Guardians
of the National Gallery of Ireland.

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